Floriculture Development in Tamil Nadu

*346. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Integrated Development of Floriculture, a Central scheme, is under implementation in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry propose to increase the cold storage plants, for the benefit of such farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of India has been implementing a Central Sector scheme on Commercial Floriculture since Eigth Plan. The scheme provides assistance for quality planting material, green houses, shade nets, on-farm handling units, area expansion and training to enterpreneurers. The scheme is now implemented as part of Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Macro Management in Agriculture—supplementation/complementation of States' efforts though work plan" since October, 2000. The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing programmes on development of floriculture through Macro Management Scheme.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, is implementing, through National Horticulture Board, a scheme "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/expansion/ modernization of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce". The scheme provides for strengthening of post-harvest infrastructure and establishment of cold storages/storages in the country including Tamil Nadu. Under the scheme back-ended capital investment subsidy is provided @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs.50 lakhs per project and @ 33.33% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs.60 lakhs in the North-Eastern States. As on 31.10.2002, 604 cold storage projects have been sanctioned in the country, including 21 in Tamil Nadu, creating a capacity of 27.37 lakh MT, including 67784 MT in Tamil Nadu. NHB has provided a subsidy of Rs.192.81 crores on these 604 projects involving total investment of Rs. 809.67 crores.